

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-12, 14-33, and 35-42 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 16, 22, and 37 are amended. Support for the amendments may be found, *inter alia*, on pages 6-9 of the specification. Claims 13 and 34 are canceled herein without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this response.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the status of the parent application in the claim for priority was not current. Applicants have updated the status of the parent application to reflect the fact that it has issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,696,056. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-42 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,696,056. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be held in abeyance until receipt of an indication of allowable claims in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 16-21 and 37-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully note that claims 54, 55, 60, 66, 80, 81, 86, and 92 are not pending in the present application. Applicants have amended claims 16 and 37 to recite "and." Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Claims are Patentable over WO97/40850

Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 14, 15, 22-26, 28-31, 33, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by International PCT Publication WO 97/40850 to Yamazaki *et al.* (corresponding to the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,120,761). Claims 6, 11,

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16, 27, 32, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness over Yamazaki. Although Applicants disagree with the rejections, Applicants have amended the claims in an effort to advance prosecution. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

The Claims are Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 4,992,419

Claims 1, 2, 7, 12-14, 22, 23, 28, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,992,419 to Woog. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 15-21, 24-27, 29-32, and 36-43 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Woog. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection; however, to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 22. As it has not been established that the cited reference teaches or suggests the claimed subject matter, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

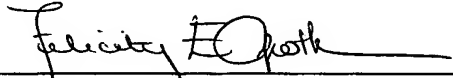
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully assert that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date is earnestly requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the undersigned may be contacted at 215-557-5908.

Respectfully submitted,

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